

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



March 14, 1997

ALL COUNTY LETTER 97- 17

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY CAL-LEARN COORDINATORS  
CAL-LEARN CASE MANAGEMENT  
CONTRACT AGENCIES  
ALL COUNTY CHILD WELFARE SERVICES  
PROGRAM MANAGERS  
ALL COUNTY AFDC PROGRAM SPECIALISTS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- ☒ State Law Change  
☐ Federal Law or Regulation  
Change  
☐ Court Order  
☐ Clarification Requested by  
One or More Counties  
☐ Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: MINOR PARENT REQUIREMENT (TEEN PREGNANCY DISINCENTIVE)  
FOR THE AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN (AFDC)  
PROGRAM

REFERENCE: ACL 96-65, ACIN I-57-96, ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 908, Chapter 307,  
Statutes of 1995

The purpose of this letter is to advise County Welfare Departments (CWDs) that the effective date of the emergency regulations that implement the minor parent provisions of AB 908 will be May 1, 1997. Implementation instructions, forms and regulations for the AFDC Program were provided in ACL 96-65, dated November 26, 1996. Attached are questions and answers that have been received from counties since the distribution of ACL 96-65. Additional questions and answers will be provided to counties prior to May 1, 1997. The Children and Family Services Division will issue a separate All County Letter (ACL) with additional implementation instructions.

Counties are to follow the implementation instructions specified in ACL 96-65 except for the change in the effective date. Pregnant and parenting minors who apply for AFDC on or after May 1, 1997 will be subject to the minor parent requirement. Child Welfare Services (CWS) will accept applicant referrals beginning May 1, 1997 and will have minor parent services available June 1, 1997.

Counties should begin to apply the minor parent requirement to the existing caseload as soon as administratively feasible, but no later than the date of the next annual redetermination beginning in July 1997. Delayed implementation of the minor parent requirement to the existing caseload will minimize start-up problems, coincide with implementation of the CWS component, and maximize the time available for coordination between eligibility and services staff before referring current recipients for minor parent services.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need additional information, please contact Judy Miller, AFDC Policy Implementation Bureau, at (916) 657-2257 or CALNET 437-2257 for AFDC program related questions. Please call Deborah Wender, Child Welfare Services Bureau, at (916) 445-5829 or CALNET 485-5829 for CWS related questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Wagstaff".

BRUCE WAGSTAFF  
Deputy Director  
Welfare Programs Division

bc: B. Wagstaff  
D. Sayles  
P. Sutherland  
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Bureau Chron  
C. File  
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Subject File

AFDC MINOR PARENT REQUIREMENT  
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. **If the county applies the minor parent requirement at redetermination, what is the effective date of any change in grant?**

The change in senior parent deeming must be applied effective May 1, 1997. If the minor parent is eligible for a higher grant, the minor's grant is recomputed and an underpayment should be issued for each month the minor was eligible for a higher grant.

2. **Does the minor parent requirement apply to unaided minor parents, i.e., undocumented aliens and SSI/SSP recipients?**

Yes. All minor parents, including undocumented aliens and SSI/SSP recipients, must be living in an acceptable living arrangement or meet one of the exemptions as a condition of eligibility for her child. When a minor parent does not meet this eligibility condition or one of the exemptions, the minor parent's entire AU is ineligible.

3. **If the minor parent has been living on her own and receiving AFDC prior to the completion of the CA 25 and she does not meet an exemption, when should the eligibility worker discontinue the case? For example, the minor parent claims that she cannot return to her parent's home due to a health and safety issue; CWS determines that it is safe for the minor to return home, but the minor refuses to return home.**

Once it is determined that an exemption does not exist, the minor parent must be given both adequate and timely notice, unless waived, as required by Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Sections 22-021 and 22-022. The minor becomes ineligible the first of the month following the month the determination is made. If the minor moves into an acceptable adult-supervised living arrangement by the first of the month following the determination, the minor parent continues to be eligible for aid.

4. **What is the beginning date of aid in the following situation: The minor applies for aid on July 2, 1997. At the time of application, the minor alleges that a health and safety factor prevents her from returning to her parent's home. On July 18th, the Child Protective Services worker determines that the minor can and should live with her parents. The minor returns to her parent's home on July 29th.**

Since the minor met all eligibility criteria prior to authorization of aid by moving back home, the beginning date of aid is July 2nd, the application date. If the minor parent's application was denied prior to her return to her parent's home, the minor can provide verification that she moved into an acceptable adult-supervised living arrangement within thirty days of the denial notice and the denial will be rescinded. In this case, the beginning date of aid would be the application date.

5. **In order for a minor parent to be exempt from the live-at-home requirement, must the exemptions be evaluated for each parent separately?**

Yes. An exemption must exist with respect to each senior parent. For example: The minor parent may be unable to live with one parent and has lived apart from the other parent for the twelve months previous to the application date or the date the CA 25 was signed.

6. **When the minor parent is a current recipient of AFDC, how are the minor parent provisions applied if the minor is living on her own at the time the CA 25 is completed?**

When the minor completes the CA 25 at redetermination, the EW must determine that the minor is living in an acceptable adult-supervised setting or that the minor meets one of the specified exemptions at that time (the date the minor parent completes the CA 25). If the minor meets one of the exemptions, the CA 25 is referred to CWS for services after verification that the minor meets all the AFDC eligibility criteria.

7. **For ongoing cases, when does the calendar start for "Live Apart for 12 Months"?**

For purposes of establishing whether the recipient minor parent has lived apart from the senior parent or legal guardian for twelve months, the minor parent must have lived apart from her parent or legal guardian for twelve months prior to the date the minor signed the CA 25.

8. **When a minor parent is ineligible because the senior parent deeming computation exceeded the income limit, is this minor eligible for Medi-Cal?**

The minor parent would have to complete a separate Medi-Cal application to determine whether he/she is eligible for Medi-Cal. The minor parent is treated like any other non-AFDC Medi-Cal applicant. If a JA 2 or SAWS 2 was completed, photocopies of the Statement of Facts can be sent to Medi-Cal.

9. **How is the Exempt or Nonexempt Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) status applied to a minor parent who is living with the senior parent?**

Exempt and Nonexempt status is based upon whether the parent/caretaker of the dependent child meets a MAP exemption. If the minor parent is the only caretaker relative in the AU, whether included or excluded from the AU, only the minor parent must meet the exemption criteria to receive an Exempt MAP for the AU. If both the senior parent and the minor parent are included in the AU, then both the senior parent and the minor parent have to meet the exemption criteria to be eligible for an Exempt MAP for the AU.

10. **When the AU contains two minor parents and the senior parent, how is the grant computed?**

When the AU contains the senior parent and two or more siblings who are both minor parents, the minimum grant amount payable to the AU is based on the MAP for the total number of the minor parents' children. The MAP for the minors' children is applicable even if the minor parents have income as long as they are aided with the senior parent.

11. **When two minor parent siblings who live with their senior parent apply for aid, how is the grant computed?**

Since each minor parent is applying for aid as the caretaker of her child, separate eligibility is established for each minor parent based on half of the senior parent's income available for deeming plus the minor's income.

12. **When two minor parent siblings live with the senior parent, but only one minor parent applies for aid, how is the grant computed?**

The minor parent applying for assistance is subject to normal senior parent deeming rules. The minor parent not applying for aid is included in the senior parent's unit when determining the amount of senior parent income which is deemed to the applicant minor parent's AU.